



THE NCSTM

The National Citizen SurveyTM

Billings, MT

Supplemental Online Survey Results

FINAL
2016



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The NCS™ is presented by NRC in collaboration with ICMA.

NRC is a charter member of the AAPOR Transparency Initiative, providing clear disclosure of our sound and ethical survey research practices.

About this Report

As part of its participation in The National Citizen Survey™, the City of Billings conducted a mailed survey of 1,400 residents. Surveys were mailed to randomly selected households in May 2016 and data was collected through July 2016. Two weeks before the official data collection period was over and the data was reported (see the report, The National Citizen Survey: Community Livability Report, Billings, MT 2016), the City made available a web-based survey to its residents through a link on the City's website. Visitors to the site were able to complete the survey during July 2016 and 1,249 surveys were received.

This report contains the results of this administration of the web-based survey and have not been weighted to current population estimates of Billings.

Complete Survey Responses

The following pages contain a complete set of responses to each question on the survey, excluding the “don’t know” responses. The percent of respondents giving a particular response is shown followed by the number of respondents (denoted with “N=”).

Responses excluding “don’t know”

Table 1: Question 1

Please rate each of the following aspects of quality of life in Billings:	Excellent		Good		Fair		Poor		Total	
Billings as a place to live	21%	N=241	54%	N=634	21%	N=241	5%	N=59	100%	N=1175
Your neighborhood as a place to live	33%	N=388	47%	N=556	17%	N=201	3%	N=35	100%	N=1180
Billings as a place to raise children	22%	N=247	50%	N=561	21%	N=232	7%	N=79	100%	N=1119
Billings as a place to work	18%	N=211	45%	N=530	28%	N=330	8%	N=97	100%	N=1168
Billings as a place to visit	14%	N=163	36%	N=422	34%	N=392	16%	N=185	100%	N=1162
Billings as a place to retire	15%	N=167	37%	N=405	30%	N=333	17%	N=190	100%	N=1095
The overall quality of life in Billings	15%	N=180	55%	N=650	24%	N=289	6%	N=68	100%	N=1187

Table 2: Question 2

Please rate each of the following characteristics as they relate to Billings as a whole:	Excellent		Good		Fair		Poor		Total	
Overall feeling of safety in Billings	8%	N=93	49%	N=560	32%	N=362	12%	N=134	100%	N=1149
Overall ease of getting to the places you usually have to visit	17%	N=201	51%	N=585	24%	N=278	7%	N=86	100%	N=1150
Quality of overall natural environment in Billings	17%	N=200	47%	N=534	27%	N=311	9%	N=100	100%	N=1145
Overall "built environment" of Billings (including overall design, buildings, parks and transportation systems)	6%	N=64	34%	N=389	42%	N=476	19%	N=215	100%	N=1144
Health and wellness opportunities in Billings	30%	N=341	42%	N=484	23%	N=262	5%	N=54	100%	N=1141
Overall opportunities for education and enrichment	18%	N=207	44%	N=502	29%	N=327	9%	N=97	100%	N=1133
Overall economic health of Billings	12%	N=138	53%	N=602	26%	N=297	9%	N=100	100%	N=1137
Sense of community	10%	N=119	37%	N=420	36%	N=410	17%	N=194	100%	N=1143
Overall image or reputation of Billings	9%	N=101	42%	N=476	33%	N=377	16%	N=188	100%	N=1142

Table 3: Question 3

Please indicate how likely or unlikely you are to do each of the following:	Very likely		Somewhat likely		Somewhat unlikely		Very unlikely		Total	
Recommend living in Billings to someone who asks	31%	N=350	44%	N=491	13%	N=148	11%	N=123	100%	N=1112
Remain in Billings for the next five years	57%	N=633	25%	N=281	9%	N=102	9%	N=100	100%	N=1116

Table 4: Question 4

Please rate how safe or unsafe you feel:	Very safe		Somewhat safe		Neither safe nor unsafe		Somewhat unsafe		Very unsafe		Total	
In your neighborhood during the day	65%	N=739	23%	N=260	7%	N=82	3%	N=38	1%	N=15	100%	N=1134
In Billings' downtown/commercial area during the day	25%	N=289	37%	N=419	14%	N=155	17%	N=199	7%	N=79	100%	N=1141

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Table 5: Question 5

Please rate each of the following characteristics as they relate to Billings as a whole:	Excellent		Good		Fair		Poor		Total	
Traffic flow on major streets	5%	N=59	40%	N=446	35%	N=385	20%	N=222	100%	N=1112
Ease of public parking	6%	N=66	31%	N=343	39%	N=435	24%	N=272	100%	N=1116
Ease of travel by car in Billings	14%	N=154	51%	N=564	28%	N=311	8%	N=84	100%	N=1113
Ease of travel by public transportation in Billings	3%	N=21	18%	N=113	31%	N=198	48%	N=308	100%	N=640
Ease of travel by bicycle in Billings	7%	N=56	27%	N=223	38%	N=307	28%	N=228	100%	N=814
Ease of walking in Billings	12%	N=124	39%	N=408	34%	N=361	16%	N=164	100%	N=1057
Availability of paths and walking trails	16%	N=171	39%	N=411	32%	N=336	13%	N=134	100%	N=1052
Air quality	17%	N=189	51%	N=569	25%	N=281	7%	N=78	100%	N=1117
Cleanliness of Billings	7%	N=84	41%	N=461	33%	N=365	19%	N=212	100%	N=1122
Overall appearance of Billings	7%	N=83	41%	N=454	35%	N=396	17%	N=185	100%	N=1118
Public places where people want to spend time	8%	N=90	44%	N=492	35%	N=388	13%	N=148	100%	N=1118
Variety of housing options	10%	N=104	40%	N=420	34%	N=359	17%	N=178	100%	N=1061
Availability of affordable quality housing	6%	N=61	28%	N=283	35%	N=352	31%	N=311	100%	N=1007
Fitness opportunities (including exercise classes and paths or trails, etc.)	23%	N=253	46%	N=500	25%	N=272	5%	N=54	100%	N=1079
Recreational opportunities	18%	N=200	46%	N=507	26%	N=284	11%	N=119	100%	N=1110
Availability of affordable quality food	20%	N=224	45%	N=499	28%	N=310	8%	N=88	100%	N=1121
Availability of affordable quality health care	32%	N=350	40%	N=437	20%	N=224	8%	N=92	100%	N=1103
Availability of preventive health services	30%	N=324	43%	N=466	21%	N=226	5%	N=58	100%	N=1074
Availability of affordable quality mental health care	15%	N=123	29%	N=236	29%	N=239	26%	N=215	100%	N=813

Table 6: Question 6

Please rate each of the following characteristics as they relate to Billings as a whole:	Excellent		Good		Fair		Poor		Total	
Availability of affordable quality child care/preschool	9%	N=56	34%	N=212	35%	N=218	22%	N=138	100%	N=624
K-12 education	16%	N=145	47%	N=425	27%	N=239	10%	N=90	100%	N=899
Adult educational opportunities	13%	N=119	47%	N=430	32%	N=295	8%	N=78	100%	N=922
Opportunities to attend cultural/arts/music activities	17%	N=177	43%	N=453	30%	N=317	9%	N=96	100%	N=1043
Opportunities to participate in religious or spiritual events and activities	32%	N=285	49%	N=442	17%	N=150	2%	N=21	100%	N=898
Employment opportunities	14%	N=150	44%	N=466	29%	N=309	12%	N=127	100%	N=1052
Shopping opportunities	18%	N=194	49%	N=530	27%	N=290	7%	N=73	100%	N=1087
Cost of living in Billings	6%	N=64	38%	N=416	39%	N=420	17%	N=186	100%	N=1086
Overall quality of business and service establishments in Billings	10%	N=112	54%	N=589	29%	N=315	6%	N=70	100%	N=1086
Vibrant downtown/commercial area	8%	N=87	35%	N=378	38%	N=402	19%	N=202	100%	N=1069
Overall quality of new development in Billings	10%	N=103	46%	N=483	34%	N=363	10%	N=105	100%	N=1054
Opportunities to participate in social events and activities	16%	N=169	45%	N=483	32%	N=336	7%	N=75	100%	N=1063
Opportunities to volunteer	30%	N=298	50%	N=494	16%	N=153	4%	N=36	100%	N=981

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Please rate each of the following characteristics as they relate to Billings as a whole:	Excellent		Good		Fair		Poor		Total	
Opportunities to participate in community matters	20%	N=199	48%	N=476	24%	N=237	9%	N=88	100%	N=1000
Openness and acceptance of the community toward people of diverse backgrounds	10%	N=107	34%	N=354	31%	N=320	25%	N=256	100%	N=1037
Neighborliness of residents in Billings	11%	N=120	39%	N=413	34%	N=367	16%	N=169	100%	N=1069

Table 7: Question 7

Please indicate whether or not you have done each of the following in the last 12 months.	No		Yes		Total	
Made efforts to conserve water	25%	N=268	75%	N=811	100%	N=1079
Made efforts to make your home more energy efficient	25%	N=267	75%	N=810	100%	N=1077
Observed a code violation or other hazard in Billings	30%	N=318	70%	N=757	100%	N=1075
Household member was a victim of a crime in Billings	79%	N=848	21%	N=231	100%	N=1079
Reported a crime to the police in Billings	65%	N=700	35%	N=376	100%	N=1076
Stocked supplies in preparation for an emergency	70%	N=750	30%	N=328	100%	N=1078
Campaigned or advocated for an issue, cause or candidate	64%	N=686	36%	N=391	100%	N=1077
Contacted the City of Billings (in-person, phone, email or web) for help or information	50%	N=534	50%	N=542	100%	N=1076
Contacted Billings elected officials (in-person, phone, email or web) to express your opinion	70%	N=757	30%	N=322	100%	N=1079

Table 8: Question 8

In the last 12 months, about how many times, if at all, have you or other household members done each of the following in Billings?	2 times a week or more		2-4 times a month		Once a month or less		Not at all		Total	
Used Billings recreation centers or their services	10%	N=101	17%	N=180	34%	N=362	39%	N=415	100%	N=1058
Visited a neighborhood park or City park	20%	N=212	33%	N=346	38%	N=402	10%	N=101	100%	N=1061
Used Billings public libraries or their services	4%	N=47	15%	N=157	37%	N=387	44%	N=460	100%	N=1051
Participated in religious or spiritual activities in Billings	15%	N=154	25%	N=265	18%	N=192	42%	N=451	100%	N=1062
Attended a City-sponsored event	2%	N=18	11%	N=112	52%	N=556	35%	N=374	100%	N=1060
Used bus, rail, subway or other public transportation instead of driving	2%	N=16	1%	N=15	7%	N=69	91%	N=961	100%	N=1061
Carpooled with other adults or children instead of driving alone	11%	N=118	14%	N=149	19%	N=201	56%	N=591	100%	N=1059
Walked or biked instead of driving	13%	N=134	15%	N=164	21%	N=228	50%	N=536	100%	N=1062
Volunteered your time to some group/activity in Billings	11%	N=122	24%	N=252	29%	N=310	36%	N=378	100%	N=1062
Participated in a club	8%	N=81	16%	N=167	18%	N=194	58%	N=618	100%	N=1060
Talked to or visited with your immediate neighbors	42%	N=448	33%	N=348	19%	N=200	6%	N=66	100%	N=1062
Done a favor for a neighbor	19%	N=201	29%	N=305	37%	N=397	15%	N=158	100%	N=1061

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Table 9: Question 9

Thinking about local public meetings (of local elected officials like City Council or County Commissioners, advisory boards, town halls, HOA, neighborhood watch, etc.), in the last 12 months, about how many times, if at all, have you or other household members attended or watched a local public meeting?	2 times a week or more		2-4 times a month		Once a month or less		Not at all		Total	
Attended a local public meeting	2%	N=17	5%	N=47	24%	N=242	69%	N=686	100%	N=992
Watched (online or on television) a local public meeting	2%	N=17	12%	N=124	33%	N=351	53%	N=561	100%	N=1053

Table 10: Question 10

Please rate the quality of each of the following services in Billings:	Excellent		Good		Fair		Poor		Total	
Police services	19%	N=187	46%	N=448	24%	N=235	11%	N=113	100%	N=983
Fire services	36%	N=332	53%	N=480	9%	N=84	2%	N=16	100%	N=912
Ambulance or emergency medical services	31%	N=276	52%	N=460	14%	N=123	3%	N=27	100%	N=886
Crime prevention	9%	N=85	33%	N=307	34%	N=319	24%	N=226	100%	N=937
Fire prevention and education	18%	N=148	48%	N=391	25%	N=206	8%	N=63	100%	N=808
Traffic enforcement	5%	N=52	27%	N=260	29%	N=281	39%	N=383	100%	N=976
Street repair	3%	N=32	27%	N=272	37%	N=379	33%	N=334	100%	N=1017
Street cleaning	8%	N=80	38%	N=380	36%	N=363	18%	N=186	100%	N=1009
Street lighting	9%	N=90	44%	N=452	31%	N=314	16%	N=162	100%	N=1018
Snow removal	6%	N=62	29%	N=300	33%	N=336	31%	N=320	100%	N=1018
Sidewalk maintenance	5%	N=49	33%	N=327	36%	N=361	26%	N=256	100%	N=993
Traffic signal timing	6%	N=57	35%	N=356	33%	N=340	26%	N=263	100%	N=1016
Bus or transit services	8%	N=39	27%	N=139	30%	N=151	35%	N=180	100%	N=509
Garbage collection	33%	N=332	52%	N=519	12%	N=122	3%	N=26	100%	N=999
Recycling	6%	N=52	22%	N=195	24%	N=219	48%	N=428	100%	N=894
Yard waste pick-up	27%	N=225	41%	N=348	22%	N=183	10%	N=84	100%	N=840
Storm drainage	9%	N=81	50%	N=465	29%	N=275	12%	N=114	100%	N=935
Drinking water	30%	N=301	50%	N=507	15%	N=148	5%	N=52	100%	N=1008
Sewer services	26%	N=249	57%	N=543	15%	N=138	2%	N=21	100%	N=951
Utility billing	16%	N=160	46%	N=448	28%	N=271	10%	N=93	100%	N=972
City parks	21%	N=214	54%	N=538	21%	N=206	5%	N=46	100%	N=1004
Recreation programs or classes	15%	N=110	48%	N=353	27%	N=202	10%	N=70	100%	N=735
Recreation centers or facilities	12%	N=84	46%	N=335	31%	N=226	11%	N=81	100%	N=726
Land use, planning and zoning	7%	N=56	33%	N=266	36%	N=287	24%	N=191	100%	N=800
Code enforcement (weeds, abandoned buildings, etc.)	5%	N=43	24%	N=217	36%	N=322	35%	N=312	100%	N=894
Animal control	10%	N=87	46%	N=395	30%	N=259	14%	N=120	100%	N=861
Economic development	10%	N=93	43%	N=384	34%	N=309	13%	N=114	100%	N=900
Health services	33%	N=316	44%	N=426	19%	N=189	4%	N=39	100%	N=970
Public library services	35%	N=290	45%	N=365	15%	N=122	5%	N=42	100%	N=819
Public information services	12%	N=100	46%	N=379	31%	N=257	10%	N=86	100%	N=822

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Please rate the quality of each of the following services in Billings:	Excellent		Good		Fair		Poor		Total	
Cable television	8%	N=70	30%	N=250	30%	N=249	32%	N=272	100%	N=841
Emergency preparedness (services that prepare the community for natural disasters or other emergency situations)	9%	N=68	41%	N=322	35%	N=272	16%	N=125	100%	N=787
Preservation of natural areas such as open space, farmlands and greenbelts	6%	N=59	41%	N=377	31%	N=285	21%	N=190	100%	N=911
Billings open space	7%	N=68	40%	N=371	36%	N=334	17%	N=160	100%	N=933
City-sponsored special events	8%	N=67	45%	N=371	33%	N=276	14%	N=115	100%	N=829
Overall customer service by Billings employees (police, receptionists, planners, etc.)	15%	N=144	47%	N=445	26%	N=247	12%	N=116	100%	N=952

Table 11: Question 11

Overall, how would you rate the quality of the services provided by each of the following?	Excellent		Good		Fair		Poor		Total	
The City of Billings	11%	N=107	49%	N=477	29%	N=279	12%	N=115	100%	N=978
The Federal Government	5%	N=42	33%	N=306	35%	N=329	27%	N=256	100%	N=933
The State Government	5%	N=49	42%	N=396	38%	N=360	15%	N=145	100%	N=950
Yellowstone County Government	7%	N=65	42%	N=401	37%	N=349	15%	N=139	100%	N=954

Table 12: Question 12

Please rate the following categories of Billings government performance:	Excellent		Good		Fair		Poor		Total	
The value of services for the taxes paid to Billings	6%	N=59	33%	N=309	38%	N=356	23%	N=217	100%	N=941
The overall direction that Billings is taking	7%	N=67	36%	N=345	35%	N=335	21%	N=204	100%	N=951
The job Billings government does at welcoming citizen involvement	5%	N=42	31%	N=259	39%	N=332	25%	N=208	100%	N=841
Overall confidence in Billings government	5%	N=46	31%	N=287	34%	N=317	31%	N=287	100%	N=937
Generally acting in the best interest of the community	7%	N=63	34%	N=319	33%	N=315	26%	N=250	100%	N=947
Being honest	7%	N=62	34%	N=301	32%	N=284	27%	N=238	100%	N=885
Treating all residents fairly	6%	N=56	30%	N=272	33%	N=294	31%	N=275	100%	N=897

Table 13: Question 13

Please rate how important, if at all, you think it is for the Billings community to focus on each of the following in the coming two years:	Essential		Very important		Somewhat important		Not at all important		Total	
Overall feeling of safety in Billings	56%	N=554	35%	N=348	8%	N=75	1%	N=6	100%	N=983
Overall ease of getting to the places you usually have to visit	23%	N=231	48%	N=473	26%	N=258	2%	N=21	100%	N=983
Quality of overall natural environment in Billings	27%	N=259	49%	N=475	22%	N=211	3%	N=32	100%	N=977
Overall "built environment" of Billings (including overall design, buildings, parks and transportation systems)	28%	N=269	47%	N=462	21%	N=210	4%	N=37	100%	N=978
Health and wellness opportunities in Billings	33%	N=322	44%	N=427	21%	N=204	3%	N=28	100%	N=981
Overall opportunities for education and enrichment	38%	N=372	40%	N=390	20%	N=193	2%	N=24	100%	N=979
Overall economic health of Billings	48%	N=473	41%	N=407	9%	N=92	1%	N=10	100%	N=982
Sense of community	31%	N=309	45%	N=444	21%	N=208	2%	N=23	100%	N=984

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Table 14: Question 14A

Please rate how important, if at all, it is for the City to create a citizen committee:	Percent	Number
Essential	28%	N=252
Very Important	35%	N=314
Somewhat important	27%	N=239
Not at all important	11%	N=95
Total	100%	N=900

Table 15: Question 14B

Please select how important it would be, if at all, for the committee to review the current charter articles:	Essential		Very Important		Somewhat important		Not at all important		Total	
Property tax limit of 74 mills for general purposes	26%	N=189	41%	N=295	24%	N=175	9%	N=65	100%	N=724
Five City wards, each represented by two Councilmembers	20%	N=164	41%	N=328	29%	N=230	10%	N=79	100%	N=801
Mayor elected at-large and votes on all issues	28%	N=233	40%	N=335	23%	N=196	9%	N=80	100%	N=844
Limit of two (2) consecutive four (4) year terms	33%	N=287	35%	N=303	20%	N=172	13%	N=109	100%	N=871
Council members must live in the Wards they represent	63%	N=567	25%	N=225	6%	N=58	5%	N=48	100%	N=898
City Administrator must be appointed to manage day-to-day city operations	34%	N=293	39%	N=331	16%	N=140	11%	N=94	100%	N=858
Mayor and Council have no administrative duties, cannot hire or remove City employees and must deal with employees through the City Administrator	31%	N=264	28%	N=234	25%	N=207	16%	N=138	100%	N=843
Boards and Commissions are advisory only and members may not be compensated	30%	N=250	31%	N=261	27%	N=222	12%	N=104	100%	N=837

Table 16: Question 15

How important, if at all, do you believe it is for the City of Billings to have a Public Information Officer?	Percent	Number
Essential	21%	N=180
Very Important	36%	N=306
Somewhat important	30%	N=257
Not at all important	13%	N=112
Total	100%	N=855

Table 17: Question 16

Please indicate how important, if at all, it is for the City to contact you about the following types of information, news or announcements:	Essential		Very Important		Somewhat important		Not at all important		Total	
City and employee awards or accomplishments	5%	N=45	16%	N=143	37%	N=337	43%	N=397	100%	N=922
Responses to text or email questions/concerns within 24 hours	28%	N=265	51%	N=473	18%	N=167	3%	N=26	100%	N=931
Downtown events	13%	N=118	36%	N=335	39%	N=360	13%	N=119	100%	N=932
Street closures, traffic accident locations or other current transportation news	35%	N=323	47%	N=436	16%	N=153	2%	N=23	100%	N=935
Elected officials' opinions on City issues or projects	19%	N=180	43%	N=397	28%	N=261	9%	N=87	100%	N=925
Police and Fire media announcements	37%	N=345	43%	N=405	17%	N=158	3%	N=27	100%	N=935
Council meeting results	25%	N=229	43%	N=400	27%	N=254	5%	N=43	100%	N=926

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Please indicate how important, if at all, it is for the City to contact you about the following types of information, news or announcements:	Essential		Very Important		Somewhat important		Not at all important		Total	
Zoning or other land use changes that may affect your neighborhood	53%	N=490	36%	N=333	10%	N=93	2%	N=17	100%	N=933
How the City sets its service rates	34%	N=315	42%	N=384	20%	N=187	3%	N=31	100%	N=917
Explaining Montana property tax system	36%	N=328	36%	N=336	21%	N=197	7%	N=61	100%	N=922

Table 18: Question 17

In Montana, property tax is the only local government tax that voters are allowed to increase. To what extent would you support or oppose this restriction being lifted in Billings so that residents could vote on a 1%-4% selective sales tax, how to spend those taxes and that would reduce property taxes?	Percent	Number
Strongly support	41%	N=362
Somewhat support	23%	N=205
Somewhat oppose	8%	N=70
Strongly oppose	28%	N=247
Total	100%	N=884

Table 19: Question D1

How often, if at all, do you do each of the following, considering all of the times you could?	Never		Rarely		Sometimes		Usually		Always		Total	
Recycle at home	10%	N=96	17%	N=164	27%	N=253	22%	N=211	23%	N=214	100%	N=938
Purchase goods or services from a business located in Billings	1%	N=6	1%	N=7	10%	N=95	59%	N=557	29%	N=277	100%	N=942
Eat at least 5 portions of fruits and vegetables a day	2%	N=23	14%	N=132	38%	N=355	33%	N=304	13%	N=121	100%	N=935
Participate in moderate or vigorous physical activity	1%	N=11	9%	N=86	35%	N=330	36%	N=335	19%	N=176	100%	N=938
Read or watch local news (via television, paper, computer, etc.)	0%	N=4	6%	N=53	15%	N=139	34%	N=316	45%	N=427	100%	N=939
Vote in local elections	3%	N=25	2%	N=18	6%	N=60	21%	N=192	68%	N=641	100%	N=936

Table 20: Question D2

Would you say that in general your health is:	Percent	Number
Excellent	20%	N=188
Very good	46%	N=428
Good	27%	N=254
Fair	6%	N=57
Poor	1%	N=9
Total	100%	N=936

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Table 21: Question D3

What impact, if any, do you think the economy will have on your family income in the next 6 months? Do you think the impact will be:	Percent	Number
Very positive	4%	N=42
Somewhat positive	23%	N=212
Neutral	50%	N=468
Somewhat negative	20%	N=183
Very negative	3%	N=31
Total	100%	N=936

Table 22: Question D4

What is your employment status?	Percent	Number
Working full time for pay	70%	N=653
Working part time for pay	10%	N=93
Unemployed, looking for paid work	2%	N=21
Unemployed, not looking for paid work	3%	N=28
Fully retired	15%	N=140
Total	100%	N=935

Table 23: Question D5

Do you work inside the boundaries of Billings?	Percent	Number
Yes, outside the home	66%	N=618
Yes, from home	8%	N=79
No	25%	N=234
Total	100%	N=931

Table 24: Question D6

How many years have you lived in Billings?	Percent	Number
Less than 2 years	3%	N=27
2 to 5 years	10%	N=93
6 to 10 years	11%	N=107
11 to 20 years	21%	N=195
More than 20 years	55%	N=518
Total	100%	N=940

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Table 25: Question D7

Which best describes the building you live in?	Percent	Number
One family house detached from any other houses	82%	N=768
Building with two or more homes (duplex, townhome, apartment or condominium)	13%	N=124
Mobile home	4%	N=38
Other	1%	N=7
Total	100%	N=937

Table 26: Question D8

Is this house, apartment or mobile home...	Percent	Number
Rented	15%	N=140
Owned	85%	N=792
Total	100%	N=932

Table 27: Question D9

About how much is your monthly housing cost for the place you live (including rent, mortgage payment, property tax, property insurance and homeowners' association (HOA) fees)?	Percent	Number
Less than \$300 per month	5%	N=48
\$300 to \$599 per month	12%	N=109
\$600 to \$999 per month	21%	N=191
\$1,000 to \$1,499 per month	36%	N=326
\$1,500 to \$2,499 per month	21%	N=195
\$2,500 or more per month	5%	N=49
Total	100%	N=918

Table 28: Question D10

Do any children 17 or under live in your household?	Percent	Number
No	62%	N=576
Yes	38%	N=356
Total	100%	N=932

Table 29: Question D11

Are you or any other members of your household aged 65 or older?	Percent	Number
No	79%	N=731
Yes	21%	N=198
Total	100%	N=929

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Table 30: Question D12

How much do you anticipate your household's total income before taxes will be for the current year? (Please include in your total income money from all sources for all persons living in your household.)	Percent	Number
Less than \$25,000	7%	N=64
\$25,000 to \$49,999	20%	N=178
\$50,000 to \$99,999	40%	N=358
\$100,000 to \$149,999	21%	N=189
\$150,000 or more	13%	N=115
Total	100%	N=904

Table 31: Question D13

Are you Spanish, Hispanic or Latino?	Percent	Number
No, not Spanish, Hispanic or Latino	97%	N=898
Yes, I consider myself to be Spanish, Hispanic or Latino	3%	N=25
Total	100%	N=923

Table 32: Question D14

What is your race? (Mark one or more races to indicate what race(s) you consider yourself to be.)	Percent	Number
American Indian or Alaskan Native	3%	N=26
Asian, Asian Indian or Pacific Islander	1%	N=8
Black or African American	1%	N=5
White	96%	N=883
Other	3%	N=26

Total may exceed 100% as respondents could select more than one option.

Table 33: Question D15

In which category is your age?	Percent	Number
18 to 24 years	3%	N=28
25 to 34 years	16%	N=147
35 to 44 years	23%	N=214
45 to 54 years	19%	N=174
55 to 64 years	23%	N=209
65 to 74 years	13%	N=120
75 years or older	3%	N=27
Total	100%	N=919

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Table 34: Question D16

What is your sex?	Percent	Number
Female	54%	N=490
Male	46%	N=423
Total	100%	N=913

Table 35: Question D17

Do you consider a cell phone or landline your primary telephone number?	Percent	Number
Cell	71%	N=652
Land line	11%	N=97
Both	19%	N=173
Total	100%	N=922

Responses including “don’t know”

The following pages contain a complete set of responses to each question on the survey, including the “don’t know” responses. The percent of respondents giving a particular response is shown followed by the number of respondents (denoted with “N=“).

Table 36: Question 1

Please rate each of the following aspects of quality of life in Billings:	Excellent		Good		Fair		Poor		Don't know		Total	
Billings as a place to live	20%	N=241	54%	N=634	20%	N=241	5%	N=59	1%	N=6	100%	N=1181
Your neighborhood as a place to live	33%	N=388	47%	N=556	17%	N=201	3%	N=35	1%	N=9	100%	N=1189
Billings as a place to raise children	21%	N=247	47%	N=561	19%	N=232	7%	N=79	6%	N=71	100%	N=1190
Billings as a place to work	18%	N=211	45%	N=530	28%	N=330	8%	N=97	2%	N=20	100%	N=1188
Billings as a place to visit	14%	N=163	36%	N=422	33%	N=392	16%	N=185	2%	N=26	100%	N=1188
Billings as a place to retire	14%	N=167	34%	N=405	28%	N=333	16%	N=190	8%	N=91	100%	N=1186
The overall quality of life in Billings	15%	N=180	55%	N=650	24%	N=289	6%	N=68	0%	N=4	100%	N=1191

Table 37: Question 2

Please rate each of the following characteristics as they relate to Billings as a whole:	Excellent		Good		Fair		Poor		Don't know		Total	
Overall feeling of safety in Billings	8%	N=93	49%	N=560	31%	N=362	12%	N=134	0%	N=3	100%	N=1152
Overall ease of getting to the places you usually have to visit	17%	N=201	51%	N=585	24%	N=278	7%	N=86	0%	N=3	100%	N=1153
Quality of overall natural environment in Billings	17%	N=200	46%	N=534	27%	N=311	9%	N=100	0%	N=4	100%	N=1149
Overall "built environment" of Billings (including overall design, buildings, parks and transportation systems)	6%	N=64	34%	N=389	41%	N=476	19%	N=215	1%	N=9	100%	N=1153
Health and wellness opportunities in Billings	30%	N=341	42%	N=484	23%	N=262	5%	N=54	1%	N=13	100%	N=1154
Overall opportunities for education and enrichment	18%	N=207	43%	N=502	28%	N=327	8%	N=97	2%	N=22	100%	N=1155
Overall economic health of Billings	12%	N=138	52%	N=602	26%	N=297	9%	N=100	2%	N=19	100%	N=1156
Sense of community	10%	N=119	36%	N=420	36%	N=410	17%	N=194	1%	N=8	100%	N=1151
Overall image or reputation of Billings	9%	N=101	41%	N=476	33%	N=377	16%	N=188	1%	N=12	100%	N=1154

Table 38: Question 3

Please indicate how likely or unlikely you are to do each of the following:	Very likely		Somewhat likely		Somewhat unlikely		Very unlikely		Don't know		Total	
Recommend living in Billings to someone who asks	31%	N=350	44%	N=491	13%	N=148	11%	N=123	1%	N=10	100%	N=1122
Remain in Billings for the next five years	56%	N=633	25%	N=281	9%	N=102	9%	N=100	2%	N=22	100%	N=1138

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Table 39: Question 4

Please rate how safe or unsafe you feel:	Very safe		Somewhat safe		Neither safe nor unsafe		Somewhat unsafe		Very unsafe		Don't know		Total	
In your neighborhood during the day	65%	N=739	23%	N=260	7%	N=82	3%	N=38	1%	N=15	0%	N=5	100%	N=1139
In Billings' downtown/commercial area during the day	25%	N=289	37%	N=419	14%	N=155	17%	N=199	7%	N=79	0%	N=5	100%	N=1146

Table 40: Question 5

Please rate each of the following characteristics as they relate to Billings as a whole:	Excellent		Good		Fair		Poor		Don't know		Total	
Traffic flow on major streets	5%	N=59	40%	N=446	34%	N=385	20%	N=222	0%	N=4	100%	N=1116
Ease of public parking	6%	N=66	31%	N=343	39%	N=435	24%	N=272	1%	N=8	100%	N=1124
Ease of travel by car in Billings	14%	N=154	50%	N=564	28%	N=311	8%	N=84	0%	N=5	100%	N=1118
Ease of travel by public transportation in Billings	2%	N=21	10%	N=113	18%	N=198	27%	N=308	43%	N=482	100%	N=1122
Ease of travel by bicycle in Billings	5%	N=56	20%	N=223	27%	N=307	20%	N=228	27%	N=307	100%	N=1121
Ease of walking in Billings	11%	N=124	36%	N=408	32%	N=361	15%	N=164	6%	N=68	100%	N=1125
Availability of paths and walking trails	15%	N=171	37%	N=411	30%	N=336	12%	N=134	6%	N=71	100%	N=1123
Air quality	17%	N=189	51%	N=569	25%	N=281	7%	N=78	1%	N=9	100%	N=1126
Cleanliness of Billings	7%	N=84	41%	N=461	32%	N=365	19%	N=212	0%	N=4	100%	N=1126
Overall appearance of Billings	7%	N=83	40%	N=454	35%	N=396	16%	N=185	0%	N=4	100%	N=1122
Public places where people want to spend time	8%	N=90	44%	N=492	34%	N=388	13%	N=148	1%	N=9	100%	N=1127
Variety of housing options	9%	N=104	37%	N=420	32%	N=359	16%	N=178	6%	N=65	100%	N=1126
Availability of affordable quality housing	5%	N=61	25%	N=283	31%	N=352	28%	N=311	10%	N=113	100%	N=1120
Fitness opportunities (including exercise classes and paths or trails, etc.)	22%	N=253	44%	N=500	24%	N=272	5%	N=54	4%	N=47	100%	N=1126
Recreational opportunities	18%	N=200	45%	N=507	25%	N=284	11%	N=119	1%	N=12	100%	N=1122
Availability of affordable quality food	20%	N=224	44%	N=499	28%	N=310	8%	N=88	0%	N=5	100%	N=1126
Availability of affordable quality health care	31%	N=350	39%	N=437	20%	N=224	8%	N=92	2%	N=22	100%	N=1125
Availability of preventive health services	29%	N=324	42%	N=466	20%	N=226	5%	N=58	4%	N=46	100%	N=1120
Availability of affordable quality mental health care	11%	N=123	21%	N=236	21%	N=239	19%	N=215	28%	N=314	100%	N=1127

Table 41: Question 6

Please rate each of the following characteristics as they relate to Billings as a whole:	Excellent		Good		Fair		Poor		Don't know		Total	
Availability of affordable quality child care/preschool	5%	N=56	20%	N=212	20%	N=218	13%	N=138	42%	N=461	100%	N=1085
K-12 education	13%	N=145	39%	N=425	22%	N=239	8%	N=90	17%	N=188	100%	N=1087
Adult educational opportunities	11%	N=119	40%	N=430	27%	N=295	7%	N=78	15%	N=160	100%	N=1082
Opportunities to attend cultural/arts/music activities	16%	N=177	42%	N=453	29%	N=317	9%	N=96	4%	N=47	100%	N=1090
Opportunities to participate in religious or spiritual events and activities	26%	N=285	41%	N=442	14%	N=150	2%	N=21	18%	N=193	100%	N=1091

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Please rate each of the following characteristics as they relate to Billings as a whole:	Excellent		Good		Fair		Poor		Don't know		Total	
Employment opportunities	14%	N=150	43%	N=466	28%	N=309	12%	N=127	3%	N=35	100%	N=1087
Shopping opportunities	18%	N=194	48%	N=530	27%	N=290	7%	N=73	1%	N=7	100%	N=1094
Cost of living in Billings	6%	N=64	38%	N=416	38%	N=420	17%	N=186	1%	N=7	100%	N=1093
Overall quality of business and service establishments in Billings	10%	N=112	54%	N=589	29%	N=315	6%	N=70	1%	N=6	100%	N=1092
Vibrant downtown/commercial area	8%	N=87	35%	N=378	37%	N=402	18%	N=202	2%	N=23	100%	N=1092
Overall quality of new development in Billings	9%	N=103	44%	N=483	33%	N=363	10%	N=105	3%	N=37	100%	N=1091
Opportunities to participate in social events and activities	15%	N=169	44%	N=483	31%	N=336	7%	N=75	3%	N=30	100%	N=1093
Opportunities to volunteer	27%	N=298	45%	N=494	14%	N=153	3%	N=36	10%	N=113	100%	N=1094
Opportunities to participate in community matters	18%	N=199	44%	N=476	22%	N=237	8%	N=88	9%	N=94	100%	N=1094
Openness and acceptance of the community toward people of diverse backgrounds	10%	N=107	32%	N=354	29%	N=320	23%	N=256	5%	N=56	100%	N=1093
Neighborliness of residents in Billings	11%	N=120	38%	N=413	34%	N=367	15%	N=169	2%	N=24	100%	N=1093

Table 42: Question 7

Please indicate whether or not you have done each of the following in the last 12 months.	No		Yes		Total	
Made efforts to conserve water	25%	N=268	75%	N=811	100%	N=1079
Made efforts to make your home more energy efficient	25%	N=267	75%	N=810	100%	N=1077
Observed a code violation or other hazard in Billings	30%	N=318	70%	N=757	100%	N=1075
Household member was a victim of a crime in Billings	79%	N=848	21%	N=231	100%	N=1079
Reported a crime to the police in Billings	65%	N=700	35%	N=376	100%	N=1076
Stocked supplies in preparation for an emergency	70%	N=750	30%	N=328	100%	N=1078
Campaigned or advocated for an issue, cause or candidate	64%	N=686	36%	N=391	100%	N=1077
Contacted the City of Billings (in-person, phone, email or web) for help or information	50%	N=534	50%	N=542	100%	N=1076
Contacted Billings elected officials (in-person, phone, email or web) to express your opinion	70%	N=757	30%	N=322	100%	N=1079

Table 43: Question 8

In the last 12 months, about how many times, if at all, have you or other household members done each of the following in Billings?	2 times a week or more		2-4 times a month		Once a month or less		Not at all		Total	
Used Billings recreation centers or their services	10%	N=101	17%	N=180	34%	N=362	39%	N=415	100%	N=1058
Visited a neighborhood park or City park	20%	N=212	33%	N=346	38%	N=402	10%	N=101	100%	N=1061
Used Billings public libraries or their services	4%	N=47	15%	N=157	37%	N=387	44%	N=460	100%	N=1051
Participated in religious or spiritual activities in Billings	15%	N=154	25%	N=265	18%	N=192	42%	N=451	100%	N=1062
Attended a City-sponsored event	2%	N=18	11%	N=112	52%	N=556	35%	N=374	100%	N=1060
Used bus, rail, subway or other public transportation instead of driving	2%	N=16	1%	N=15	7%	N=69	91%	N=961	100%	N=1061
Carpooled with other adults or children instead of driving alone	11%	N=118	14%	N=149	19%	N=201	56%	N=591	100%	N=1059
Walked or biked instead of driving	13%	N=134	15%	N=164	21%	N=228	50%	N=536	100%	N=1062
Volunteered your time to some group/activity in Billings	11%	N=122	24%	N=252	29%	N=310	36%	N=378	100%	N=1062
Participated in a club	8%	N=81	16%	N=167	18%	N=194	58%	N=618	100%	N=1060

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In the last 12 months, about how many times, if at all, have you or other household members done each of the following in Billings?	2 times a week or more		2-4 times a month		Once a month or less		Not at all		Total	
Talked to or visited with your immediate neighbors	42%	N=448	33%	N=348	19%	N=200	6%	N=66	100%	N=1062
Done a favor for a neighbor	19%	N=201	29%	N=305	37%	N=397	15%	N=158	100%	N=1061

Table 44: Question 9

Thinking about local public meetings (of local elected officials like City Council or County Commissioners, advisory boards, town halls, HOA, neighborhood watch, etc.), in the last 12 months, about how many times, if at all, have you or other household members attended or watched a local public meeting?	2 times a week or more		2-4 times a month		Once a month or less		Not at all		Total	
Attended a local public meeting	2%	N=17	5%	N=47	24%	N=242	69%	N=686	100%	N=992
Watched (online or on television) a local public meeting	2%	N=17	12%	N=124	33%	N=351	53%	N=561	100%	N=1053

Table 45: Question 10

Please rate the quality of each of the following services in Billings:	Excellent		Good		Fair		Poor		Don't know		Total	
Police services	18%	N=187	44%	N=448	23%	N=235	11%	N=113	4%	N=41	100%	N=1024
Fire services	32%	N=332	47%	N=480	8%	N=84	2%	N=16	11%	N=117	100%	N=1029
Ambulance or emergency medical services	27%	N=276	45%	N=460	12%	N=123	3%	N=27	14%	N=141	100%	N=1027
Crime prevention	8%	N=85	30%	N=307	31%	N=319	22%	N=226	8%	N=87	100%	N=1024
Fire prevention and education	14%	N=148	38%	N=391	20%	N=206	6%	N=63	21%	N=216	100%	N=1024
Traffic enforcement	5%	N=52	25%	N=260	27%	N=281	37%	N=383	5%	N=52	100%	N=1028
Street repair	3%	N=32	26%	N=272	37%	N=379	32%	N=334	1%	N=14	100%	N=1031
Street cleaning	8%	N=80	37%	N=380	35%	N=363	18%	N=186	2%	N=20	100%	N=1029
Street lighting	9%	N=90	44%	N=452	31%	N=314	16%	N=162	1%	N=11	100%	N=1029
Snow removal	6%	N=62	29%	N=300	33%	N=336	31%	N=320	1%	N=12	100%	N=1030
Sidewalk maintenance	5%	N=49	32%	N=327	35%	N=361	25%	N=256	4%	N=37	100%	N=1030
Traffic signal timing	6%	N=57	35%	N=356	33%	N=340	26%	N=263	1%	N=10	100%	N=1026
Bus or transit services	4%	N=39	14%	N=139	15%	N=151	18%	N=180	50%	N=516	100%	N=1025
Garbage collection	32%	N=332	50%	N=519	12%	N=122	3%	N=26	3%	N=31	100%	N=1030
Recycling	5%	N=52	19%	N=195	21%	N=219	42%	N=428	13%	N=136	100%	N=1030
Yard waste pick-up	22%	N=225	34%	N=348	18%	N=183	8%	N=84	18%	N=187	100%	N=1027
Storm drainage	8%	N=81	45%	N=465	27%	N=275	11%	N=114	9%	N=89	100%	N=1024
Drinking water	29%	N=301	49%	N=507	14%	N=148	5%	N=52	2%	N=21	100%	N=1029
Sewer services	24%	N=249	53%	N=543	13%	N=138	2%	N=21	7%	N=75	100%	N=1026
Utility billing	16%	N=160	44%	N=448	26%	N=271	9%	N=93	5%	N=51	100%	N=1023
City parks	21%	N=214	52%	N=538	20%	N=206	4%	N=46	2%	N=23	100%	N=1027
Recreation programs or classes	11%	N=110	34%	N=353	20%	N=202	7%	N=70	28%	N=291	100%	N=1026
Recreation centers or facilities	8%	N=84	33%	N=335	22%	N=226	8%	N=81	29%	N=297	100%	N=1023
Land use, planning and zoning	5%	N=56	26%	N=266	28%	N=287	19%	N=191	22%	N=224	100%	N=1024

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Please rate the quality of each of the following services in Billings:	Excellent		Good		Fair		Poor		Don't know		Total	
Code enforcement (weeds, abandoned buildings, etc.)	4%	N=43	21%	N=217	31%	N=322	30%	N=312	13%	N=134	100%	N=1028
Animal control	8%	N=87	38%	N=395	25%	N=259	12%	N=120	16%	N=165	100%	N=1026
Economic development	9%	N=93	38%	N=384	30%	N=309	11%	N=114	12%	N=124	100%	N=1024
Health services	31%	N=316	42%	N=426	18%	N=189	4%	N=39	5%	N=54	100%	N=1024
Public library services	28%	N=290	36%	N=365	12%	N=122	4%	N=42	20%	N=207	100%	N=1026
Public information services	10%	N=100	37%	N=379	25%	N=257	8%	N=86	20%	N=205	100%	N=1027
Cable television	7%	N=70	24%	N=250	24%	N=249	27%	N=272	18%	N=180	100%	N=1021
Emergency preparedness (services that prepare the community for natural disasters or other emergency situations)	7%	N=68	32%	N=322	27%	N=272	12%	N=125	23%	N=233	100%	N=1020
Preservation of natural areas such as open space, farmlands and greenbelts	6%	N=59	37%	N=377	28%	N=285	18%	N=190	11%	N=118	100%	N=1029
Billings open space	7%	N=68	36%	N=371	33%	N=334	16%	N=160	9%	N=92	100%	N=1025
City-sponsored special events	7%	N=67	36%	N=371	27%	N=276	11%	N=115	19%	N=194	100%	N=1023
Overall customer service by Billings employees (police, receptionists, planners, etc.)	14%	N=144	43%	N=445	24%	N=247	11%	N=116	7%	N=74	100%	N=1026

Table 46: Question 11

Overall, how would you rate the quality of the services provided by each of the following?	Excellent		Good		Fair		Poor		Don't know		Total	
The City of Billings	11%	N=107	47%	N=477	28%	N=279	11%	N=115	4%	N=36	100%	N=1014
The Federal Government	4%	N=42	30%	N=306	32%	N=329	25%	N=256	8%	N=85	100%	N=1018
The State Government	5%	N=49	39%	N=396	35%	N=360	14%	N=145	7%	N=68	100%	N=1018
Yellowstone County Government	6%	N=65	39%	N=401	34%	N=349	14%	N=139	6%	N=62	100%	N=1016

Table 47: Question 12

Please rate the following categories of Billings government performance:	Excellent		Good		Fair		Poor		Don't know		Total	
The value of services for the taxes paid to Billings	6%	N=59	31%	N=309	36%	N=356	22%	N=217	4%	N=42	100%	N=983
The overall direction that Billings is taking	7%	N=67	35%	N=345	34%	N=335	21%	N=204	3%	N=31	100%	N=982
The job Billings government does at welcoming citizen involvement	4%	N=42	26%	N=259	34%	N=332	21%	N=208	15%	N=145	100%	N=986
Overall confidence in Billings government	5%	N=46	29%	N=287	32%	N=317	29%	N=287	5%	N=46	100%	N=983
Generally acting in the best interest of the community	6%	N=63	32%	N=319	32%	N=315	25%	N=250	4%	N=38	100%	N=985
Being honest	6%	N=62	31%	N=301	29%	N=284	24%	N=238	10%	N=100	100%	N=985
Treating all residents fairly	6%	N=56	28%	N=272	30%	N=294	28%	N=275	9%	N=86	100%	N=983

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Table 48: Question 13

Please rate how important, if at all, you think it is for the Billings community to focus on each of the following in the coming two years:	Essential		Very important		Somewhat important		Not at all important		Total	
Overall feeling of safety in Billings	56%	N=554	35%	N=348	8%	N=75	1%	N=6	100%	N=983
Overall ease of getting to the places you usually have to visit	23%	N=231	48%	N=473	26%	N=258	2%	N=21	100%	N=983
Quality of overall natural environment in Billings	27%	N=259	49%	N=475	22%	N=211	3%	N=32	100%	N=977
Overall "built environment" of Billings (including overall design, buildings, parks and transportation systems)	28%	N=269	47%	N=462	21%	N=210	4%	N=37	100%	N=978
Health and wellness opportunities in Billings	33%	N=322	44%	N=427	21%	N=204	3%	N=28	100%	N=981
Overall opportunities for education and enrichment	38%	N=372	40%	N=390	20%	N=193	2%	N=24	100%	N=979
Overall economic health of Billings	48%	N=473	41%	N=407	9%	N=92	1%	N=10	100%	N=982
Sense of community	31%	N=309	45%	N=444	21%	N=208	2%	N=23	100%	N=984

Table 49: Question 14A

Please rate how important, if at all, it is for the City to create a citizen committee:	Percent	Number
Essential	26%	N=252
Very Important	32%	N=314
Somewhat important	25%	N=239
Not at all important	10%	N=95
Don't know	7%	N=69
Total	100%	N=969

Table 50: Question 14B

Please select how important it would be, if at all, for the committee to review the current charter articles:	Essential		Very Important		Somewhat important		Not at all important		Don't know		Total	
Property tax limit of 74 mills for general purposes	20%	N=189	31%	N=295	18%	N=175	7%	N=65	24%	N=224	100%	N=948
Five City wards, each represented by two Councilmembers	17%	N=164	35%	N=328	25%	N=230	8%	N=79	15%	N=137	100%	N=938
Mayor elected at-large and votes on all issues	25%	N=233	36%	N=335	21%	N=196	8%	N=80	10%	N=99	100%	N=943
Limit of two (2) consecutive four (4) year terms	31%	N=287	32%	N=303	18%	N=172	12%	N=109	7%	N=68	100%	N=939
Council members must live in the Wards they represent	60%	N=567	24%	N=225	6%	N=58	5%	N=48	5%	N=49	100%	N=947
City Administrator must be appointed to manage day-to-day city operations	31%	N=293	35%	N=331	15%	N=140	10%	N=94	9%	N=90	100%	N=948
Mayor and Council have no administrative duties, cannot hire or remove City employees and must deal with employees through the City Administrator	28%	N=264	25%	N=234	22%	N=207	15%	N=138	11%	N=106	100%	N=949
Boards and Commissions are advisory only and members may not be compensated	26%	N=250	28%	N=261	23%	N=222	11%	N=104	12%	N=112	100%	N=949

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Table 51: Question 15

How important, if at all, do you believe it is for the City of Billings to have a Public Information Officer?	Percent	Number
Essential	19%	N=180
Very Important	32%	N=306
Somewhat important	27%	N=257
Not at all important	12%	N=112
Don't know	10%	N=97
Total	100%	N=952

Table 52: Question 16

Please indicate how important, if at all, it is for the City to contact you about the following types of information, news or announcements:	Essential		Very Important		Somewhat important		Not at all important		Don't know		Total	
City and employee awards or accomplishments	5%	N=45	15%	N=143	36%	N=337	42%	N=397	3%	N=25	100%	N=947
Responses to text or email questions/concerns within 24 hours	28%	N=265	50%	N=473	18%	N=167	3%	N=26	2%	N=17	100%	N=948
Downtown events	12%	N=118	35%	N=335	38%	N=360	13%	N=119	1%	N=13	100%	N=945
Street closures, traffic accident locations or other current transportation news	34%	N=323	46%	N=436	16%	N=153	2%	N=23	1%	N=9	100%	N=944
Elected officials' opinions on City issues or projects	19%	N=180	42%	N=397	28%	N=261	9%	N=87	2%	N=22	100%	N=947
Police and Fire media announcements	36%	N=345	43%	N=405	17%	N=158	3%	N=27	1%	N=13	100%	N=948
Council meeting results	24%	N=229	42%	N=400	27%	N=254	5%	N=43	2%	N=21	100%	N=947
Zoning or other land use changes that may affect your neighborhood	52%	N=490	35%	N=333	10%	N=93	2%	N=17	1%	N=9	100%	N=942
How the City sets its service rates	33%	N=315	41%	N=384	20%	N=187	3%	N=31	3%	N=24	100%	N=941
Explaining Montana property tax system	35%	N=328	36%	N=336	21%	N=197	6%	N=61	2%	N=22	100%	N=944

Table 53: Question 17

In Montana, property tax is the only local government tax that voters are allowed to increase. To what extent would you support or oppose this restriction being lifted in Billings so that residents could vote on a 1%-4% selective sales tax, how to spend those taxes and that would reduce property taxes?	Percent	Number
Strongly support	41%	N=362
Somewhat support	23%	N=205
Somewhat oppose	8%	N=70
Strongly oppose	28%	N=247
Total	100%	N=884

Table 54: Question D1

How often, if at all, do you do each of the following, considering all of the times you could?	Never		Rarely		Sometimes		Usually		Always		Total	
Recycle at home	10%	N=96	17%	N=164	27%	N=253	22%	N=211	23%	N=214	100%	N=938
Purchase goods or services from a business located in Billings	1%	N=6	1%	N=7	10%	N=95	59%	N=557	29%	N=277	100%	N=942

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How often, if at all, do you do each of the following, considering all of the times you could?	Never		Rarely		Sometimes		Usually		Always		Total	
Eat at least 5 portions of fruits and vegetables a day	2%	N=23	14%	N=132	38%	N=355	33%	N=304	13%	N=121	100%	N=935
Participate in moderate or vigorous physical activity	1%	N=11	9%	N=86	35%	N=330	36%	N=335	19%	N=176	100%	N=938
Read or watch local news (via television, paper, computer, etc.)	0%	N=4	6%	N=53	15%	N=139	34%	N=316	45%	N=427	100%	N=939
Vote in local elections	3%	N=25	2%	N=18	6%	N=60	21%	N=192	68%	N=641	100%	N=936

Table 55: Question D2

Would you say that in general your health is:	Percent	Number
Excellent	20%	N=188
Very good	46%	N=428
Good	27%	N=254
Fair	6%	N=57
Poor	1%	N=9
Total	100%	N=936

Table 56: Question D3

What impact, if any, do you think the economy will have on your family income in the next 6 months? Do you think the impact will be:	Percent	Number
Very positive	4%	N=42
Somewhat positive	23%	N=212
Neutral	50%	N=468
Somewhat negative	20%	N=183
Very negative	3%	N=31
Total	100%	N=936

Table 57: Question D4

What is your employment status?	Percent	Number
Working full time for pay	70%	N=653
Working part time for pay	10%	N=93
Unemployed, looking for paid work	2%	N=21
Unemployed, not looking for paid work	3%	N=28
Fully retired	15%	N=140
Total	100%	N=935

Table 58: Question D5

Do you work inside the boundaries of Billings?	Percent	Number
Yes, outside the home	66%	N=618
Yes, from home	8%	N=79
No	25%	N=234
Total	100%	N=931

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Table 59: Question D6

How many years have you lived in Billings?	Percent	Number
Less than 2 years	3%	N=27
2 to 5 years	10%	N=93
6 to 10 years	11%	N=107
11 to 20 years	21%	N=195
More than 20 years	55%	N=518
Total	100%	N=940

Table 60: Question D7

Which best describes the building you live in?	Percent	Number
One family house detached from any other houses	82%	N=768
Building with two or more homes (duplex, townhome, apartment or condominium)	13%	N=124
Mobile home	4%	N=38
Other	1%	N=7
Total	100%	N=937

Table 61: Question D8

Is this house, apartment or mobile home...	Percent	Number
Rented	15%	N=140
Owned	85%	N=792
Total	100%	N=932

Table 62: Question D9

About how much is your monthly housing cost for the place you live (including rent, mortgage payment, property tax, property insurance and homeowners' association (HOA) fees)?	Percent	Number
Less than \$300 per month	5%	N=48
\$300 to \$599 per month	12%	N=109
\$600 to \$999 per month	21%	N=191
\$1,000 to \$1,499 per month	36%	N=326
\$1,500 to \$2,499 per month	21%	N=195
\$2,500 or more per month	5%	N=49
Total	100%	N=918

Table 63: Question D10

Do any children 17 or under live in your household?	Percent	Number
No	62%	N=576
Yes	38%	N=356
Total	100%	N=932

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Table 64: Question D11

Are you or any other members of your household aged 65 or older?	Percent	Number
No	79%	N=731
Yes	21%	N=198
Total	100%	N=929

Table 65: Question D12

How much do you anticipate your household's total income before taxes will be for the current year? (Please include in your total income money from all sources for all persons living in your household.)	Percent	Number
Less than \$25,000	7%	N=64
\$25,000 to \$49,999	20%	N=178
\$50,000 to \$99,999	40%	N=358
\$100,000 to \$149,999	21%	N=189
\$150,000 or more	13%	N=115
Total	100%	N=904

Table 66: Question D13

Are you Spanish, Hispanic or Latino?	Percent	Number
No, not Spanish, Hispanic or Latino	97%	N=898
Yes, I consider myself to be Spanish, Hispanic or Latino	3%	N=25
Total	100%	N=923

Table 67: Question D14

What is your race? (Mark one or more races to indicate what race(s) you consider yourself to be.)	Percent	Number
American Indian or Alaskan Native	3%	N=26
Asian, Asian Indian or Pacific Islander	1%	N=8
Black or African American	1%	N=5
White	96%	N=883
Other	3%	N=26

Total may exceed 100% as respondents could select more than one option.

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Table 68: Question D15

In which category is your age?	Percent	Number
18 to 24 years	3%	N=28
25 to 34 years	16%	N=147
35 to 44 years	23%	N=214
45 to 54 years	19%	N=174
55 to 64 years	23%	N=209
65 to 74 years	13%	N=120
75 years or older	3%	N=27
Total	100%	N=919

Table 69: Question D16

What is your sex?	Percent	Number
Female	54%	N=490
Male	46%	N=423
Total	100%	N=913

Table 70: Question D17

Do you consider a cell phone or landline your primary telephone number?	Percent	Number
Cell	71%	N=652
Land line	11%	N=97
Both	19%	N=173
Total	100%	N=922

Verbatim Responses to Open Ended Question

The following pages contain the respondents' verbatim responses as entered in the web survey and have not been edited for spelling or grammar. Responses have been organized by alphabetical order.

What is the single most pressing issue for our City government to address in 2016/2017?

- A built environment that accomodates everyone - not just cars.
- A city tax
- A city tax
- A focus on community which encompasses safety, volunteerism, and community events (cultural, environmental).
- A more diverse and in touch city council that represents all of billings and makes livability, safty, parks, and quality of life a priority.
- Ability to pay costs without adding several levis each year after year
- absolutely no sales tax without first eliminating the state income tax and reducing the property taxes
- Accountability
- Actually listening to voters and the younger generations
- Adapting to the growth that has happened over the last 10 years and planning ahead for the next 20 years.
- address non-discrimination ordinance; very disappointing the prejudices towards a portion of our population. Disappoinmtne in the Mayor's disparagement of those outside the mainstream of Monana.
- Address the increasing crime and deterioration due to drug use. No men in women's bathrooms
- Addressing climate change and city's carbon footprint
- Addressing the police department, unethical practices, short staffed
- Adequate enforcement of traffic laws: speeding, ignoring lights, signs etc.-
- Adequate safety (police and fire)
- Adequate school funding
- Affordable housing
- Affordable housing
- Affordable Housing
- Affordable housing; Non Discrimination Ordinance; Community involvement.
- Aggressive driving i.e., tailgating, speeding, running people off the road, overall traffic safety
- Airport revitalization
- Alcohol substance abuse among homeless
- All companies should have to offer affordable healthcare and affordable assisted living for our elderly
- All the drunk homeless lounging and sleeping everywhere pestering people on the streets for money and the crime that comes along with them
- All the panhandlers on the corners, especially around king ave and the drunk people everywhere you look downtown.

- Allocation and use of funds, new superintendent of public education
- Allowing concealed carry for personal protection in more places, specifically establishments downtown to include restaurants.
- Allowing master plan to inform growth, zoning and the development of a built environment that supports health, access, safety and economy
- Alternative transportation
- Another way out of the heights besides driving all the way down in Alkali and around - MARY to the Interstate is ESSENTIAL!!!!!!
- Approving sales tax. Legalizing medical/recreational marijuana for tax revenue.
- AVOID "The Strong Cities Network" at all costs
- Balanced budget
- Being responsible to the citizens/taxpayers
- Better City Leadership
- Better flights in and out of Billings
- BETTER QUALIFIED CITY OFFICIALS
- Better quality emergency medical services.
- Better wages.
- Billings is becoming an unattractive city. Just the other day I noticed a utilitarian steel building being built on the corner of 35th and 1st Avenue North. Although they tried to dress it up it still looks like a steel warehouse and does nothing to improve the neighborhood. We could use a consistent architectural code and review process.
- Billings Now - master plan/visioning to move Billings from good to great
- Bringing people and businesses to Billings.
- Budget
- Budget
- Budget
- Budget constraints
- Budgeting
- Budgeting more funds for police , and expanding our jails
- Build a mega park with a large pond with paddle boats, biking trail, walking trail, 2 golf courses
- Building department and lack of flexibility small building improvements. The results are no permits are being pulled, improvements not getting done or buildings get ran down and sit empty. Maybe the city needs to look at the current codes that they use.
- Building new businesses
- Business diversity
- by myself. Finally, no more of those dumb roundabouts. Waste of money & confusing for many.
- bypass from the heights to the west end
- Cannabis
- Change form of city government. City administrator should NOT have so much power
- Change the image of Billings on Interstate corridor
- Changing zoning to create livable communities
- Charter review
- City Services

- City council is not representative of the broad cross-section of Billings
- City councilman respect of citizens
- City economics and transparency
- City maintenance of softball fields, city parks, places for kids and families to have extra curricular events are in POOR shape. Money spent on building new things when older things are not being maintained! baseball to softball field ratio!
- City planning
- City pride - beautification, reducing litter and graffiti, complete roads & sidewalks, development design standards
- City services that support the safety and citizen quality of life expectations in a growing community.
- City street maintenance and snow removal on an equal bases throughout the city, especially in Billings Heights which seems to often get left out.
- Clean air
- Clean up downtown, despite public and private efforts to revitalize downtown, the transient and homeless population problems continue to overshadow the good that is going on.
- Cleaning house - new people and relations with schools
- Clear the bums from downtown
- climate change
- Code enforcement of trees 13ft above streets and 11ft above sidewalks.
- Cohesive community. Help MetraPark reach its highest potential. Continue revitalizing downtown area
- Collaborating with other Montana cities to alter MCA 7-6-1501 to delete 8a, 8b and 8c, by use of the voter initiative process.
- Communication
- Communication and utilization of public services.
- community safety
- Community safety
- Community Values
- Complete streets to include bike lanes
- Connecting new, sprawling areas just outside city limits with city services and (safer) roads.
- Consistent/honest information
- Continue and increase good work
- Continue the downtown development
- Continue to fund, enhance and extend the public parks, bicycle paths, community and recreation opportunities.
- Corruption
- Corruption at large and Teamster corruption that hurts members as well as residence. Essential to clean up "The Toilet That the Montana AFL-CIO stole from the good union members on 27th" It's a damned pity what has happened. Biased leftist interest and the Full liquor License "Lees Salloon" uses to create a bad nexus of sociology and culture on the South Side as well as in our main entrance. Give this back to the real members. Let it again become a point of pride and not a personal cash machine for Democrat who have stolen from the Unions by force. We can be better the Lees Salloon.
- Cost containment and operating within a budget

- Cost of living in billings including minimum wage and housing
- Cost of living in Billings. Housing costs and taxes are simply too high for the wages in our community.
- Creating an economic culture and climate in which a rising tide does indeed lift all boats
- Creating jobs
- Creating neighborhoods with essential services nearby so people don't have to drive so much.
- Crime
- Crime
- Crime
- Crime
- Crime
- Crime
- Crime
- Crime
- Crime
- Crime
- Crime
- Crime
- Crime
- crime
- Crime
- Crime
- Crime and corruption.
- Crime and downtown atmosphere
- Crime and police being understaffed
- Crime and traffic violations
- Crime control
- Crime in Billings
- Crime prevention and securing safety watches in neighborheads/zones. Better employmentalso
- Crime prevention for safety of residents.
- Crime Rate
- Crime rate especially shootings and stabbings.
- Crime with juveniles. city needs more for kids and familys to do together
- Crime!
- Crime, drugs, native ametican crime
- Crime, Education, Public Services, Cleanliness
- Crime, vandalism, and harassment from chronic inebriates and homeless in downtown and N27th St. corridor areas AND improved traffic enforcement
- Crime. Get the criminals out of town
- Crime/drugs
- Crimes in billings
- Cultivating a sense of community downtown

- Dealing with crime in downtown Billings. Businesses are leaving downtown and people are not going there at night because of crime.
- Decrease drug use and related crimes
- Discrimination and policing
- Dishonesty, cheating people in important places stealing money from tax payers
- Diversity and acceptance of people of other races or ethnic backgrounds.
- Diversity for all people regardless of race, creed, religion or sexual orientation.
- Diversity---public transportation!!!---sustainable city planning and development
- Don't know
- don't know
- Don't offset property tax with sales tax, ADD sales tax. This place is a dump because it is underfunded.
- Downtown safety and homelessness
- Downtown safety issues and the transients
- Drug addiction and showing a positive and productive way forward for our native American friends and neighbors.
- Drug addiction/trafficking
- Drug problem growing in the area
- Drug problems..water rates..people simply cannot afford to water their lawns
- Drug related crime. Gang related crime. Finding space to jail those responsible.
- Drug related crimes including burglary and gangs, and the Police response to virtually everything.
- drug use
- Drugs and crime
- Drugs and drug houses in our neighborhoods
- Drugs and resident safety
- Drugs. immigration where is billings going to be next year
- Drunk transient natives
- Drunk's downtown and too much trash laying around city streets.
- DUI and other traffic problems. such as red light runners, speeders, and bike riders.
- Easier access to housing and rehab...people should not be sleeping on sidewalks.
- Economic Development
- Economic Development
- Economic development
- ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
- Economic development
- Economic development - beyond casinos and chains. We need industry, business, manufacturing, and a pro-growth environment
- Economic development in order to increase quality employment opportunities.
- Economic Diversification
- Economic growth
- Economic growth/strenght
- Economic health of billings
- Economy

- Education
- Education
- Education
- Education
- Education
- Education and stop the war on drugs.
- Education options
- Effective money management
- emergency preparedness/public safety
- Emergency services, police and fire, must be increased
- Employment
- Enable more business/restaurants to be located in the northwest part of town; plan infrastructure (encompassing many of the survey issues here) around a definite plan before it's too late & inform citizens of plans NOW to keep them in town.
- Enacting a non-discrimination ordinance
- Enforcement of law.
- Enforcing the ordinances, not ignoring them. We need more police.
- Enforcing traffic laws
- ensuring that all neighborhoods get the same services without raising taxes
- environment
- Environmental impacts of our refineries and housing development waste.
- Environmental issues
- Environmental, air quality, Roundup (glyphosate) ban
- Equal traffic planning for every community and every individual in the city.
- Expanding public transportation
- First, the tax question... i only support IF property taxes are reduced. otherwise, i would strongly oppose. to answer this particular question, fiscal responsibility. cut expenses and spend less money. bike paths are NOT a priority, lets move on to soething more pressing! i'm sick and tired of mill levies by the schools and city... getting nickel and dimed to death
- Fix the potholes in my alley!
- Fix the traffic lights that always seem to be broken out of synch etc.
- Flight options to larger hub cities
- Focus legal citizens. Fight against Obama placing so called refugees in the community
- Focusing on ways to lower the cost of airfare in and out of Billings.
- For court systems and employers that have employees to follow state and federal laws. no ones life is less valuable.
- funding
- Funding for city services beyond just property tax
- Funding for infrastructure through local options taxes (hotels, restaurants, etc.)
- Funding for public safety
- Funding needed services and amenities
- Funding of proper level of support for police and fire personnel -- PUBLIC SAFETY
- Funding police department. Hiring more officers who can do more prevention.
- Future growth of Billings and preparing for it

- Gang crime is increasing also hate crime is on the rise.
- Garbage in the City. It is upsetting how dirty the City is.
- Generating revenue to increase public safety.
- Get more city promotion of parades, holiday activities instead of telling us to go to Laurel. WE are the largest city in MT and do not have 4th of July Parade community fireworks show centrally located like it once was. Western, Memorial Day parades no longer exist. the car show once held downtown has been moved to Metra. Too many new streets are 2 lanes rather than 4 lanes, and during peak hours they are back up for blocks. And you never see the police making routine traffic stops
- Get out of the way of business, people.
- Get rid of dead weight city workers
- Get rid of property taxes and generate funding from EVERYBODY not the same pool of people
- get rid of Tina Volek
- Getting gang activity under control. This is drug related and is destroying our neighborhoods.
- Getting rid of the homeless population and changing the public intoxication to include a police department "drunk tank".
- getting rid of the panhandling everywhere in this city. It looks horrible to visitors to this state.
- Graffiti, Ally's Paved, (mine is terrible), Police who give tickets to Red light runners. Renters Rights enacted;
- Greenspace
- Grow with the times. This isn't 1980.
- Growth
- Growth and economy
- Growth of the City of Billings and the corresponding needs - safety, infrastructure, etc.
- Growth planning
- Growth policy to maintain or enhance transportation infrastructure.
- Handicap access throughout the city and making sure all businesses are following the law. In attending some restaurants with only bar height seating, there has to be an inspector taking money under the table. How are there even businesses open on Grand Avenue with no access? Again, who is not enforcing the ADA law? We need to be moving forward, not stuck in the good old boy network days. Not having a community that is user friendly to all dates it, and makes it unwelcoming to all...
- Having a traffic flow plan that fixes all the bottle necks in this town
- Having our elected state representatives be responsive to the needs and wishes of Billings residents instead of blindly following political dictates.
- Health and safety for its citizenry
- Heights traffic
- HIGH TAXES!!
- Hire more law enforcement officers, traffic control ie, speeding and running red lights is nonexistent!
- Hiring more police and having a better response time
- Hiring of more police officers, especially traffic officers.
- Homeless and panhandlers off the streets

- Homeless and vagrants downtown
- Homeless population
- Homeless population
- Homeless problems - affordable housing and mental health issues and panhandlers
- Homeless/street people/pan handlers - the begging on street corners, drunks downtown, etc. seems to be increasing
- Homeless/vagrants downtown and enforcement of traffic laws
- Homelessness
- Homelessness
- Homelessness and affordable housing
- Homelessness in Billings
- Homelessness, panhandling
- Homelessness, vagrants
- Homeless & Panhandlers
- Honesty
- How the home owner is getting bled dry with all our taxes. Would maybe get a nicer home, but the taxes get so extreme. It really makes you think before you do something like that.
- I can't imagine there is a most important issue.
- I feel as though protecting our children from the hundred's of sex offenders that reside withing billings would be an important issue. Giving victims of crimes a voice within the criminal justice system, today victim advocates are non existent within Billngs MT. As a victim of a gun shot, the suspect (who was found guilty) has not completed his requirements of his sentencing yet was allowed off of probation, he still owes compensation for medical bills & counseling, he even has warrants out for his arrestbut nobody will arrest him.
- I feel that the Police shoot too many people.
- I think if the bicycles use the roads they need to pay some sort of registration to help keep the roads safe for all to use. Motorcyclists amd motorists pay registration on the vehilces so should they.
- I think there needs to be better handicap access. often times even big dumpsters or cars are parked where a wheelchair can get off the sidewalk. This is very frustrating. I think each council member should walk in the shoes of a handicap person for half aday in public areas. Areas that these people may frequent...a sports complex, a baseball field or a park. I also think the city needs to gain control over amend park. so many funds are wasted in this realm of things preventing sporting events to be hostedin billings. just as a big bid at the metra for a basketball tourney provides income for the city. so does events such as lacrosse, soccer etc. I also think the police force needs to be made public. when you wait for an officer to come to a call and you hve 3-4 officers drive by without stopping. i understand that it is not their area. but it should be there duty to stop. i was in a traffic accident in which the person causing the accident attempted to leave and became threatening. after watching 4 offices drive by and not stop,,,it was frustrating as i felt i was in danger. i think dispatch could give an approximate time to answer the call. this is only courtesy to the citizens. why do we have to wait 2 hours for a traffic accident. yes we need public saety levy to pass but the issues at hand need to be addressed.
- If you bring in a local selective sales tax, you get rid of property tax all together OR state income tax, that is the only way i will support any type of sales tax PERIOD!!
- Image (encompasses safety, economics, downtown development)

- Improve attractiveness to visitors and prospective businesses.
- Improvements to visual appeal (beautification of neglected areas and those destroyed by industry.)
- Improving alternative modes of transportation so we have better bus routes and times and more bike paths. I would ride my bike to work more often but I do NOT feel safe riding on Billings streets. The drivers are incredibly disrespectful.
- Improving the rampant incompetence and/or outright corruption that exist in the Utilities and Street Departments, because both Departments are losing ground with each passing day.
- Increase funding for planning!
- Increase planning to find opportunities to long-term preserve natural environment and improve early childhood education
- Increasing air travel options and decreasing the cost
- Increasing funding for services and infrastructure
- Increasing number of police officers for public safety
- Increasing property taxes for all the levies
- Increasing Public safety
- Increasing the number of police officers. It is necessary.
- Increasing the regentrification of downtown billings, and the riverfront to bring more people to our town. Also a local option tax for Billings.
- Increasing violent crimes as it relates to substance abuse and mental health issues.
- Ineffective City Leadership at Cityhall
- Infastructure
- Infastructure
- Infill instead of expanding further west.
- Infrastructure
- Infrastructure
- Infrastructure
- Infrastructure able to handle continued growth of Billings
- Infrastructure and encourage businesses to move to Billings and bring young famines for growth and revenue
- Infrastructure and safety!
- Infrastructure and spending our tax dollars more wisely than building things like a library.
- Infrastructure funding
- Infrastructure Funding and Resilience
- Infrastructure, specifically west end arteries
- Instituting a sales tax to alleviate rising property taxes and pay for future infrastructure
- Invest in quality of life for residents while attracting skilled workforce. Do this by supporting initiatives that create a vibrant downtown as the heart and soul of Billings, enhance our natural resources, leverage creative placemaking (murals, traffic signal boxes, artwalk, music, etc), expand parks, trails, pedestrian safety, and improve housing choices for all (especially affordable housing in and near downtown).
- Issues with our police department
- It is important to lobby for Billings to be able to implement a sales tax to lift some of the burden from property owners.

- Jobs with appropriate salaries
- KEEP BILLINGS SALES TAX FREE!
- Keep cost down
- Keep taxes down which could be better achieved by spending money only on necessities and not frivolous stuff that if wanted should be paid for by private sector who wants it... ie. bike trails, amenities, cultural events, etc.
- Keep the rims trails accessible to the public.
- Keeping Billings safe from alcohol and drugs
- Keeping law enforcement and fire services at proper personell and equipment levels
- Keeping taxes low, and fixing the educational system WITHOUT additional funds.
- Keeping the right-wingers on the council from turning the city into a rich-folks-only zone
- Keeping up with the growing population. Keeping crime down.
- Lack of affordable middle-class housing (150-300K price range)
- Lack of any code or traffic enforcement.
- Lack of available jobs & the selection process for people that actually want to work.
- Lack of Cleanliness in Billings!
- Lack of good mamagement and supervisors
- Lack of inclusion, lack of community
- lack of police officer patrolling traffic
- Lack of police presence and traffic safety and patrols.
- Lack of traffic violation enforcement
- Law enforcement
- Law Enforcement
- Law enforcement and public safety
- Learn to live within the city's means.....no tax increases as they are already extremely high
- Lets start cleaning up the criminal element in this town, police arrest people judges set them free, how about locking up some of these scum.
- Listening to the people and not the burocrats--stronger sense of morality and honesty
- Live with their budget
- Local Option Sales Tax
- Local option sales tax
- Local option tax
- Local Option Tax
- Local Option Tax
- Local Option Tax - Figuring out funding sources for quality of life amenities
- Local option tax ability.
- Local sales tax
- Local sales tax! We could make a killing at Montana Fair
- Long Range Growth Planning for economic and clutural futures. To stimulate the appeal of Billings as a viable location for both business and families to relocate.
- Long term financing of basic services, sales tax, affordable housing
- Long-term city planning to incorporate bike lanes and trails, to manage the overbuilding of McMansion-filled neighborhoods, and to encourage infill with sustainable, multi-life stage housing.

- Look and feel of the I90/94 corridor as the face of Billings
- Low wages
- Lower all crime rates. Safety for all residents.
- Lower property tax.
- Lower the water rates. There are more and more brown lawns in town and it is starting to look like we are living in poverty.
- Lowering property taxes
- Lowering property taxes
- Lowering taxes and cost of water
- Maintain current services provided by the city
- Maintain the existing high quality service and watch costs more closely.
- Maintaining economic prosperity
- Maintenance of city streets and sidewalks, especially in the winter
- Make sure our water system is accurately tested and low levels of lead are found
- Make sure the priorities are set before the budget is discussed and the City Administrator and Finance Director should follow the budget adopted
- Making Billings an attractive place for young people to move to.
- Making Billings more beautiful.
- Making Billings more visibly pleasing for visitors and current residents. The city needs to clean up the areas along the interstate and maintain it. We need to bring people into our city and it shouldn't look like a run down dump from the interstate. We could do a lot more of cleaning up a lot of areas around Billings.
- Making the city inclusive, voting down the NDO was an ugly back mark on the city's reputation.
- Manage growth/infrastructure development/funding
- Managed growth
- Managing vehicle traffic
- Many
- Mental health and safety especially downtown
- Mental health of transients in downtown
- Mental health programs for uninsured and under insured. MHSP was cut with the Medicaid expansion and left many, like myself, without much needed care and medications.
- Meth and Drug Use
- Meth use/abuse/trafficking
- Micky mouse fire administration.
- Mills increase for transit
- More and better jobs.
- More green space
- More officers patrolling
- More police officers.
- Must have a strong traffic enforcement. Currently, the drivers have no fear of breaking traffic laws. It is honestly a horrific city to drive in. Speeding, running through red lights and getting cutoff is rampant.
- N/A

- NDO
- NDO !
- Need more law enforcement, because the crime rate is increasing and making the city scary.
- Need more police; transit issues
- Need to actively address systemic discrimination against all minorities in Billings, in particular LGBT and Native American communities.
- Need to support the zoo
- Needing more police officers
- New growth
- New jail and new high school
- No one single issue: Affordable housing for those of us who make too much money to qualify for HUD or Section 8 but don't have enough money to afford the new \$800 1 bedroom apartments on the west end which has poor transportation opportunities. The lowermiddle class are definitely being pushed out of Billings.
- No sales tax allowed
- No sales tax! Stop wasting city money on so much stupid crap!
- No sales tax, please.
- Non discrimination ordinance
- Non discrimination ordinance, safety issues in the medical corridor and downtown parks, taxation that is equal among citizens, traffic violations
- Nondiscrimination ordinance
- Non-discrimination ordinance and recycling
- Non-Discrimination Ordinance.
- Non-discrimination Ordinance.
- Not aware of issues - a list to prioritize would be helpful
- Not increasing taxes or fees
- Not picking up leaves in fall, plugging storm drains & flooding out areas
- not putting trees and grass that need to be maintained along roadways- it always looks bad
- Not raising property taxes any more
- Operating the city economically; it seems it always chooses the most expensive way
- Option tax
- Optional revenues
- Our City Council needs to pass an NDO! People in this corner of the state are far too uninformed (seemingly intentionally) about how difficult life is when one is a member of the LGBT community. This needs to change!
- Our high water rates
- Out of control administrative educational spending with little benefit to students
- Outdoor opportunities
- Overall appearance of the City. The city needs to move away from the industrial, urban blight look and improve the aesthetic appears of the main and secondary streets while maintaining the pleasant park appearance of residential areas.
- Overall cleanliness of our city and more traffic enforcement for people who are texting while driving
- Overall image of Billings as a vibrant, growing city, as opposed to a fading railroad town.

- Overall law enforcement and funding.
- Overall safety of Billings (including ALL neighborhoods: Street lights (none on parts of the South Side and Southwest Corridor) AND TRAFFIC CONTROL! WHY DON'T WE HAVE A TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT DIVISION?!!
- Overcrowded public schools
- Overcrowding at the jail- public safety
- Pass an NDO
- Passing a NDO
- Passing a non-discrimination ordinance making Billings open to everyone
- Passing a nondiscrimination ordinance
- Passing an NDO. There should be NO REASON why it's legal to discriminate against ANY resident.
- People go 10 miles over posted speed limits all of the time, I'm sick of it
- Permanent 'Blue Flu' by police officers.
- Place for children. beside bar!!!
- Planning and defining Billings. Billings is not deliberate. When you visit other cities, you get a sense that the city is trying to build a community too. Here in Billings, it seems anything nice is privately funded. We're so focused on holding down taxes that we're creating mediocrity and at the same time, a city that is less appealing to live in. I would also add safety and schools. We need to have another discussion soon on another public high school.
- Planning for continued growth, including the need to increase essential services, police, fire etc.
- Planning for future
- Planning for Traffic
- Planning, zoning
- Please consider a new police chief, preferably from outside who will usher in community oriented policing, hold department members accountable,
- Police
- Police accountability.
- Police dysfunction
- Police numbers & safety
- Police presence/ crime prevention
- Police response. I've made multiple calls at place of work with no personal interaction with a police officer. This is essential for police citizen interaction. Provides a sense of comfort to citizens.
- Police that will put down their cell phones, stop eating doughnuts, learn basic traffic signals and then start enforcing motor vehicle laws-BILLINGS HAS THE WORST DRIVERS IN MONTANA and our tubby lazy cops do nothing to enforce the laws.!
- poor airport and air transit
- Poor Billings Police Attitude toward the public: The Problem starts with Chief Rich St John
- Poor K-12 educational system.
- Poor land use planning
- practicing what they preach
- Preparing for future growth - bringing in more air travel - better public transportation -

higher paying wages to sustain growth

- Preserving farm and ranch lands. Use the space we have more efficiently.
- Preventing urban sprawl
- Preventing violence
- Price of living here in Billings Montana vs. Wages
- Proactively put together a Civilian Police Oversight Board to review police misconduct. Mistrust of Billings Police is very high in the Billings community, and a citizen review board would help. Do it before there is another "Grant Morrison" style citizen shooting!
- Progressive planning for growth and the elderly.
- Proper Development Planning - Think into the future about housing and commercial developments.
- Property tax
- Property taxes
- property taxes
- Property taxes are too high
- Property taxes.
- Proposed growth plan is out of control. Land use restrictions are causing higher priced work force housing which is critical in providing housing for good economic growth.
- Protection of LGBT community
- Public Education
- Public information & perception. And economy & higher wage jobs.
- Public pre k
- Public Safety
- Public Safety
- Public safety
- Public safety
- Public Safety
- Public safety
- Public Safety
- public safety
- Public Safety
- Public Safety
- Public Safety
- Public Safety
- Public Safety
- Public safety Police department
- Public safety drug enforcement theft
- Public safety improvements, such as more police officers, more firefighters and SOON!
- Public safety, homelessness, economic development of downtown
- Public safety, police and fire
- Public Safety, specifically traffic.
- Public safety. Traffic monitoring with camera system for automated tickets for speeding, running red lights, and failing to move for emergency vehicles would not only improve safety but also generate revenue to hire more law enforcement Perhaps Billings could return to police officers interacting with residents outside of emergent situations and

improve the 'feel' of our town. Code enforcement is part of public safety, especially for traffic. Drive around Billings, in any established area, and note trees blocking traffic views, in power lines, and what moron designed our roundabouts? Compare to European style; one can see for nearly a quarter mile in theirs and there are no any crosswalks

- Public Safety/Fire Coverage for the City
- Public Safety--The need for the Police Dept to match Billings growth
- Public school education
- Public transportation in general and public safety at night.
- Public transportation, recycling program & pick up services and snow removal
- Quality and well planed growth
- Quality of K-12 education
- Quality of life and decent streets
- Quality of life culture and arts
- Quality of traffic control and street maintance, overall police protection improvement.
- Quit grilling the citizens during the City Council Public Comment period.. It is called "Public Comment". Not "Lets ask questions of our constituents, and make them feel like they are being cross examined" period. If you look at communities in Montana andthe surrounding states, this is the only public body that asks qustions of it's people during the "Public Comment" period of its meetings. It is intimidating, and, quite frankly, very rude. Citizens that come to a City Council meeting to have their voice eard, but instead, get queried, will think twice about reliving that experience. Maybe that is exactly what this Council wants. Little or no Public Comment. This council wonders why they don't hear from different citizens during its meetings.The unending uestions are the reason. Let the people have their voice be heard without fear of being questioned mercilessly.
- Racial Tension
- Racism and homophobia
- Raising taxes and yet more and more people move to billings, yet nothing changes, other than always needing money
- Recognizing the need for police patrol on heavy traveled streets as well as close to high schools. The drivers in Billings are out of control and do not respect the law.
- Recycling
- Reduce crime, especially meth use and distribution.
- REDUCE MY PROPERTY TAX
!!
- Reducing crime rates. It cannot be a community if you don't feel safe.
- Reducing violent crime that we seem to hear about almost daily.
- Release of criminals en masse from state and federal prison systems to urban areas where services are provided - insufficient law enforcement and social services - lack of prevention services - insufficient care for mentally ill.
- Remove dishonest people of power ...those paid and never at work.
- Removing gangs, panhandlers from corners, noisy and speeding vehicles in the city.
- Repeated property damage by natural weather forces is critical issue in obtaining property insurance coverage.
- Reputation
- Residential street snow removal!
- Revenue from sources other than property tax/eliminate the damn casinos

- Reviewing levies and fees or assessments, like MET and Planning, or the Arterial Fee, to align levies with long term community service demands.
- Rising crime/public safety
- Road construction locations. Example. Grand under construction the same time as Broadwater. Takes 15min to get somewhere instead of 5min
- Roads and traffic flow. Too many people running red lights because they have to sit through 2-3 lights before they get to go.
- Roads! They're a mess! Build for the future, the city is obviously growing at a fast rate. Construction around the city is a mess. Do the construction at night when there is a low flow of traffic like the county is doing now near the metra. The county repaved alot of different streets in about a weeks time with no delays! Look at what the city is doing with Grand and Bench. What an absolute nightmare those projects are. We get hassled by construction crews trying to go home. They tell us we dont need to b travelling on that street. Also, the trash! The city looks like a dump, especially from the interstate. I have alot of friends from out of town and they say they would never live here because of what they see driving along the interstate.
- Roads. Better public transit. Homeless off streets and harassing people.
- Roads/ snow removal
- Run the city effeciently and not worry about all those stupid bike trails, plenty of places foe riding now
- Safe walking paths for pedestrians and bike paths for cyclists, a safe opt out of driving.
- Safe, affordable housing options
- Safety
- Safety
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- Safety
- Safety - Billings is growing, there is more crime and the police are untrained and understaffed
- Safety - Law Enforcement
- Safety & economic cost associated with it. I.e.: Wise use of funds.
- Safety and drug use related crimes

- Safety Crime
- Safety downtown
- Safety downtown Billings. I would like to be able to go downtown at night with my family and not feel scared. If i take my family for Big Dipper I dont want to be begged for money or step over people sleeping on the sidewalks.
- Safety downtown related - enforcing drug and alcohol overuse
- Safety in Billings
- Safety in Billings. Having the appropriate number of officers and other emergency personnel.
- Safety in the city
- Safety issues
- Safety issues.
- Safety less crime
- Safety. More police officers. We need better traffic control and patrolling.
- Safety/crime
- Safety/Crime
- Safety/increasing police presence
- Safety/response times of 911 calls in downtown businesses, transient/public intoxication downtown
- Safety-reduce homeless
- Sales and property taxes
- Sales tax versus Property tax.
- Sales Tax, Generating Revenue
- School overcrowding
- Schools and change of curriculum
- Secretive re-zoning of land use for landfill against wishes of surrounding residents
- Serial inebriates (public drunkenness) on the streets in our community
- Sharing the burden of taxes by lowering property tax and instituting a sales tax. No double burden to property owners however. Property taxes must be lowered
- Slowing economy due to oil, gas and coal industries.
- Small business succuess during construction
- Smaller government
- Smart economic development and safety
- Smart Growth
- Snow Removal
- snow removal
- Snow removal, recreational and medical marijuana
- Snow removal. City streets in the winter are a dangerous, chaotic fight for survival every day.
- Special needs Education
- Stop having close meetings then voting yourself a pay raise! Do you on the City Council understand?
- Stop spending money we don't have
- STOP SPENDING/WASTING MONEY ON THINGS THAT THE MAJORITY OF THE BILLINGS/HEIGHTS RESIDENTS DON'T WANT. It also seems like the voting process

isn't fair or accurate. The only way it would be fair is if the only residents allowed to vote would own property & have "skin in the game" Entirely too many people vote that do not have to pay anything or their fair share. A city/county/state wide sales tax would balance things out as long as property taxes were eliminated like other states do.

- Stop TIF district abuse and stop the Bike paths.
- Stop wasting taxpayers money
- Stopping City employees from abusing their positions, especially in relation to access to resident information
- Street Dept. Constantly sweeping, never plowing snow. Nonsense.
- Street maintenance
- Street maintenance and paving
- Street maintenance, getting Heights connector roads underway
- Street repairs
- Street resurfacing
- Streets & traffic
- Strive to gain equitable treatment from the State Govt. (legislature) particularly taxing authority
- Succession planning for retiring Administrator and Dept heads
- Support for diversity in race, gender, economics, etc.
- Support for LGBT citizens
- Support for local option taxing authority.
- Supporting a local option tax and economic development.
- sustainable "white-collar" economic development
- Sustainable development in energy and economy.
- Taking care of the SENIOR population that grows daily in Billings. You neglect the Seniors and the cost of living here for Seniors on a limited income is outrageous. You, City of Billings, need to start looking at this for you all will be seniors one da. Some of you are already.... Give us a break.... isn't it about time?
- Tax reform
- Taxes
- Taxes
- Taxes
- Taxes
- Taxes
- Taxes
- Taxes and fundung and staffing the new middle schools
- Taxes and services
- Taxes and the governments need to keep asking for more and more and not living with in their means. Always stateing it's only a few dollars on a \$100,000 home. Really means nothing since there are no such home in Billings. .
- Taxes, Taxes & Taxes. You are bleeding us residents dry and I'm looking at moving away
- Taxes. Simply put, people that visit our city do not pay for services. I want a gas and or sales tax.
- Taxes. We are 5axed too much
- Tech jobs. (IT, GIS, CAD, ENGERNERING) Billings id falling behind other cities in

Montana in these job fields and we are losing residents and jobs to other cities.

- The airport is embarrassing. We are the largest city in the region and it often costs us more to fly out of here than Bozeman or Missoula or Bismarck. In fact, it's usually cheaper to drive to Denver. Our lack of flight options is ridiculous.
- The blight of transients downtown.
- The budget needs to be clearly prioritized.
- The City Administrator has entirely too much control on what happens in the city, it should be a position of support, not, I say again, NOT, the bastion of authority it has evolved into.
- The city council needs to be better educated on the daily workings of each of the city departments. Instead of them micromanaging these daily workings of the departments, they should be working to create a long term vision for a healthy, dynamic community that is welcoming, engaged and vibrant
- The city officials not to whine because they are overwhelmed and do their jobs according to state and federal laws
- The cleanliness and safety of downtown. We won't bring our family down at night or stop at the gas stations down there
- The continued increase in taxes and the effect on people living on fixed incomes.
- The corruptive ability of city administration/council to misappropriate public safety funds to use to bolster the general fund while not improving public safety
- The dangerous speeding drivers on major streets that drive 50 mph or more and people running red lights constantly. Plus, the large homeless population is driving people away from parts of downtown and this needs to be addressed. Billings is a great place to live and I want to keep it that way. We need more police and they need to be more vigilant about the out of control drivers in our community and set up speed traps and send a message that speeding is unacceptable. I am afraid to drive my grandchildren on certain main streets because of the crazy drivers that seem to think they are above the law.
- The downtown crime
- The drug problems and the crime associated with that.
- The economic health of city coffers
- The growing power and cost of bureaucracy and the negative impact it has on development.
- The homeless.
- The homelessness downtown
- The increase in crimes and making downtown a lot more safe, as well as removing the homeless so people aren't bothered with drunk, aggressive homeless people. This too has become a bigger problem and I've spoke to a lot of business owners who also are tired of this issue not being dealt with immediately.
- The increase in violent crime needs to be addressed we need more police officers
- The lack of support for increased police presence, especially in the traffic sector
- The leaders/directors/heads of departments/council need to be looked at...many do not do their job like they should.
- The local option tax.
- The look of the city approaching from interstate 90 either at the S. Billings exit or at 27th Street
- The non-discrimination ordinance
- The number of traffic violations and accidents. We need dedicated enforcement.

- The planning and maintenance of the roads in this city are absolutely horrible. A city needs main arteries to thrive. Clog those arteries and it dies.
- The problem with taxes in Billings, is that the City gives all the businesses too many tax breaks. TIF's and BIRD' were meant to be an only one time opportunity, but the City continues to keep giving them over and over. No wonder there is no money in th City's General Fund, they let all the businesses hide their taxes in TIF, Bird or orther phony econiomic development scams. The city would not have to ask for a mill levy for Police and Fire if everyones taxes went into the general fund. These same businesses run off to other cities and come back saying we should be another Boise or Rapid City. Let Billings evolve into Billings. I WOULD REALLY LIKE TO SEE PUBLISHED AN ACCOUNTING OF ALL THE TIFS, BIRDS, ETC. AND WHAT THAT MONEY IS SPENT ON. Just remeber what the business people did to us taxpayers when the bowling tournament was here. They said they would help pay, but the county tax payer had to come up with \$600,000 to cover expenses. It is high time the business people, especially the downtown bsinesses have to start paying into the general fund.
- The safety of our community. We have so much crime anymore.
- The safety of the citizens of Billings. Far too much crime and I don't feel safe.
- The single most important factor to me remains "SAFETY." Safety includes ADA accommodations including: •
- The Streets of Grand, Broadwater and Central should be completed to SHILOH IMMEDIATELY!!! There are not enough clear through streets. The traffic would flow better if you had clear through streets every 4th street instead of every 8th street. That is kin of rediculous!! Very hard for people visiting and new people to Billings to get around when it is such a mess. Thank you for listening.
- There are so many issues needing to be addressed. Billings looks shabby, tall weeds, weeds in the sidewalk cracks, medians, against fences, not to mention trash blowing in the wind. If we want to project a vibrant image, clean up the town, enforce litterig and weed control. Traffic enforcement, traffic flow...I could list number of issues. Billings could be so much more, but we seem to be stuck in a rut with short sighted local government.
- There is a growing issue with incidents taking place in Billings. The city can't pass a levy to save its life so new measures need to be taken to get the funds needed to implement new programs. I also think that there should be an audit on all city servces where they use an outside vendor. The city officials should be looking to spend wisely. Where available, the city should look at bids for products used. As a tax payer, I do not appreciate personal agendas with my tax dollars.
- They need to make sure a Non Discrimination Ordinance isn't forced upon the city.
- Ticketing violaters for cell phone use while driving.
- To properly utilize the property taxes and not to allow special interests to extract those said taxes to pay for their entrainment but to use them for the benefit of all tax payers not the few.
- Too many drinking events downtown, and an overall sense that you must drink to have a good time. It appears that we are ignoring the potential for numerous dui's and don't have the police to handle them
- Traffic
- Traffic
- Traffic
- Traffic - including control devices
- Traffic (enforcing laws, proper road planning, weeds, wasting money on poorly planned intersections)

- Traffic and bike/walk trails and route expansions
- Traffic conditions, people running red lights, etc.
- Traffic congestion -- specifically Hwy 87E/Main/1st Ave N (why doesn't the County donate the old fairground entrance for a dedicated right turn lane to Main?!?), Airport Rd/Main, all along 24th Street West, Central Ave near 24th St West, etc.
- Traffic congestion and crime
- Traffic control. Billings streets are a free for all. Need cops enforcing traffic laws. The city could make a fortune on traffic tickets if they just started having traffic control officers issuing tickets for offenders.
- Traffic enforcement
- Traffic enforcement
- Traffic enforcement
- Traffic enforcement if you watch everyday someone is going over 60 mph in the city and there is no enforcement of the cell phone law. Why have laws if no one is going to enforce them?
- Traffic Enforcement!!!!!!
- Traffic enforcement, especially use of handheld electronic devices
- Traffic enforcement, more traffic patrolman
- Traffic enforcement. Cell phones, red lights, we have laws but no enforcement
- Traffic flow 4th and Division
- Traffic flow efficiency
- Traffic in billings
- Traffic issues cars, bicyclists, and pedestrians
- Traffic law violations such as red light running and speeding!
- Traffic management and safety.
- Traffic Safety - more police patrolling unsafe drivers and enforcement of traffic laws, Safe Routes for non motorists
- Traffic safety and enforcement is almost nonexistent!
- Traffic violation enforcement, crime prevention
- Traffic Violations and unsafe drivers
- Traffic violations are terrible - the police chief needs to impress this upon his officers. Red lights and stop signs mean almost nothing. I feel so strongly, I think it could cost the Police Chief his job!
- Traffic violators, drugs, dui's, violent crime in our neighborhoods, no traffic cops
- Traffic control...Billings is a much to dangerous place caused by the disregard drivers have for traffic laws.
- Traffic law enforcement
- Trail system & river development
- Transient Clean-Up
- Transient population
- Transparency
- Transparency! and Heights traffic congestion (no way in or out during bad storms, tornados etc)
- Transportation
- Transportation infrastructure to keep up with the curreent growth rate.

- Trash and garbage from littering has been getting worse and is an eyesore in several areas of Billings. I feel like public trash cans should be more readily available in public spaces...like up along the rims. It would be nice to have them wrapped with pictures and messages to keep our city beautiful and please don't litter!
- Trying to reduce taxes, or limit increases.
- Vagrancy and crime
- Vagrants/loitering people need to be removed
- Vandalism
- Vibrant planning and development
- Violence in the downtown and southside areas.
- Violent crime, illegal drug usage, tougher penalties for violent offenders, and drunk repeated driving
- Visual pollution
- Wages for city administration being proportionate to community incomes.
- Waste of taxpayer money on libraries, bike paths, parks
- Water
- Water supply
- Waterfront development along the Yellowstone. Such a beautiful natural resource so underutilized.
- Wastewater treatment
- We need a sales tax. property taxes are oppressive. We MUST start collecting more taxes from visitors. But we must in turn reduce property tax.
- We need more revenue sources so that we can make good investments in multi-modal transportation infrastructure and services and public safety services.
- We need to pass an inclusive non-discrimination ordinance that will help make all of Billings citizens feel safe.
- We still seem to have safety concerns in the downtown area. I do not feel comfortable walking around parts of downtown.
- West end expansion and building adequate roads with adequate shoulders and appropriate infrastructure
- When a main arterial is closed for construction they work 27-7 till completed
- Where are money is going as tax payers..
- Why doesn't the city of Billings have a recycling program. I lived in Colorado and they picked it up like your garbage. We should be more green! create more bike paths so biking to work is a safe and feasible option.
- Widening Grand Ave. from 17th st. to 24th.
- Widening streets and creating more streets from far west end into Billings.
- Wise use of employee time. There's a lot of activity that the private sector could do better instead of having several government workers doing the task to keep them busy.
- You need to address our public transit system.
- ZONING, PUTTING IN LOW COST HOUSING THAT AFFECTS PROPERTY VALUES OF HOMEOWNERS, WHEN HOMEOWNERS ARE AGAINST SUCH HOUSING ESPECIALLY WHEN AGENT FOR LOW COST HOUSING WILL RENT TO DRUGGIES AND REGISTERED SEX OFFENDERS AND MAKE THE NEIGHBORHOOD BECOME A SLUM/HETTO FEELING SUCH AS IN THE HEIGHTS NEIGHBORHOOD WE DON'T NEED ANYMORE PROBLEMS!